

### ***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-7, 9-14, 20-28, 30, 33, 36-37 and 39-41 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 20, 27 and 28 being the independent claims. Claims 8, 15-19, 29, 31-32, 34-35 and 38 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claim 41 is sought to be added.

The specification has been amended to indicate the priority for the present application. Applicant has also amended the specification so that the language better conforms with U.S. practice. These amendments add no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, 13-14, 20-27, 30, 33, 36 and 39-40 is found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. Claims 3-5, 10, 13, 14, 25 and 26 are amended to eliminate multiple dependency. Support for the amendment to claim 6 can be found, inter alia, in originally filed claim 1. The dependency of claims 9 and 11 has been clarified in view of the cancellation of claim 8. Claims 20-26, 30, 33 and 40 are amended so that the language better conforms with U.S. practice. Support for new claim 41 can be found, inter alia, in originally filed claim 35. These amendments add no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

### ***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Daniel A. Klein  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 54,225

Date: January 30, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

SKGF\_489829.1